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Introduced by Mr. AVERA, of Johnston.

W. W. Holden, Printer to the State.

AN ACT DEFINING EXTORTION AND ENCOURAGING HONORABLE SPECULATION.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That it shall not be lawful for any manufacturer of leather, salt, woolen or cotton goods of any kind, cotton yarns, nor the producer of wheat, flour, corn, meal, pork, bacon, beef, beef cattle, fat hogs, nor any other article of prime necessity, to sell for a greater profit than seventy-five per cent on nett cost of manufacturing or producing the same.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That it shall not be lawful for any merchant or other dealers or speculators to buy and sell any article of prime necessity, included or intended to be included, in the provisions of this act, for a greater profit than twenty-five per cent upon the amount paid the manufacturer or producer of the same.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to allow merchant tailors, manufacturers of any kind, clothing, boots and shoes, to place a greater profit than twenty-five per cent. on the cost of material manufactured by them.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That should any person or persons agree with the Executive, the Governor, to construct works for the manufacture and sale of salt at not more than fifty per cent on cost of manufacture, then, and in that case, the Governor shall commission such per-

6 son or persons, with guarantee of indemnity against loss
7 from seizure by the enemy. *Provided*, such seizure shall
8 be made before the profits accruing from such works shall
9 reach two-thirds the amount of the original cost of con-
10 struction of the same.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That should any manufac-
2 turer, producer, merchant, speculator or other dealer, vio-
3 late any of the provisions of this act, by demanding or
4 selling any article herein specified, for a greater profit than
5 the provisions of this act allow, he shall be deemed an ex-
[6 tortioner, and taxed fifty per cent upon all nett profits made
7 by him after the passage of this act, whether made upon
8 sales above or below the profits allowed by the provisions
8 of this act.

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That all manufacturers,
2 farmers, producers, merchants or other dealers, shall list
3 for taxation upon oath, all such profits upon his or their
4 sales, as is taxable by the provisions of this act, under the
5 same rules and regulations as are now provided by law for
6 listing and collecting taxes upon other personal and real
7 estate. And *Provided further*, That should any person or
8 persons, knowingly or wilfully fail or refuse to comply with
9 the provisions herein set forth, in neglecting or refusing to
10 list all such profits as are herein included, he or they shall
11 be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and on indict-
12 ment and conviction before any county or superior court
13 of law, be fined not less than one thousand, nor more than
14 twenty-five thousand dollars, or imprisoned, or pressed
15 into the military service of the State, as a private in the
16 ranks during the war, as the exigencies of the case may
17 require. *Provided*, that nothing herein contained shall be
18 so construed as to prevent the manufacturer or producer
19 from assessing upon oath, the cost of all articles manufac-
20 tured or produced by them.

SEC. 7. *Be it further enacted*, That the Governor is
2 hereby authorized at any time when, in his judgment, the
3 public interest require it, to lay an embargo upon part or

4 the whole of the articles included in the provisions of this
5 act, except such articles as are or may be held by proper-
6 ly authorized agents of the Confederate States, or other
7 sister States of this government.

SEC. 8. *Be it further enacted*, That this act shall be in
2 force on and after its ratification during the present war.

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